

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 478

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to recognize and thank William Gwynne Baird for his dedication and commitment to supporting the Wilson County Archives.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, William Gwynne Baird is one such individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a business professional, Mr. Baird has also distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, his love of his community has long fueled his vision of salvaging and memorializing the great heritage of Tennesseans, especially those of Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird has helped to foster knowledge and preservation of Wilson County history by personally donating many historical items that have been in his family for generations; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, he has helped to generate interest in yesterday's, today's, and tomorrow's Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, included in the group of donated items are a crank telephone, a marble top chest, a round top trunk, a biscuit bowl, needle books, a slave-made washstand, a grandfather clock made at Baird's Mill, ledgers from Baird's Mill, photographs, and the Baird family history files; and

WHEREAS, for nearly two hundred years, the Baird family has been active in Wilson County, and William Gwynne Baird traces his genealogical roots to Seldon Baird, a late-coming but enduring figure during the founding of the Pond Lick Creek settlement; and

WHEREAS, Seldon Baird's oldest son, John B. Baird, was the guiding genius of the multi-faceted Baird family business, which included the most expansive business enterprises in the area for over three quarters of a century; and

WHEREAS, Baird's Mill, established sometime around 1840, was the backbone of the immediate and the surrounding communities, providing a grain and flour mill, blacksmith shop, a sawmill, furniture and plow manufacturing, a distillery and winery, a sugar house, a cotton gin, a hotel, and a general store; and

WHEREAS, located on the southeast corner of Chicken Road and Highway 10 Old Murfreesboro Road, now Highway 231, is the original site of the mill, which, due to the extensive services of the mill and the numbers of people involved in its numerous activities, provided healthy employment prospects as well as services that contributed to making the area an attractive place to settle in the early years of Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, with the intent of preserving and paying tribute to the cultural, historical, environmental, and economic influences of the area, Mr. William G. Baird has most generously contributed \$416,000 to the Wilson County Archives for the direct funding of a new building addition and renovation; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his support and that of his late wife, Corene, the new building shall be named the W.G. Baird and Corene Kelly Baird Building, and a room shall be set aside as the W.G. Baird Room, which shall house the pictures and historical artifacts of the Baird family and Baird's Mill community history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird is an extremely generous person who often reaches out with compassion and selflessness, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird exemplifies the spirit of allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his dedication to his heritage and to the good people of Tennessee is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend William Gwynne Baird, a man of uncommon integrity and relentless vision, for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Wilson County and Tennessee, thank him for his generous contribution to the Wilson County Archives, and salute his unswerving commitment to preserving and commemorating our common heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.